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A DRIVING MAN FOR A DEMANDING JOB

DALLAS TOWNSEND: "President Kennedy today met with reporters at the Naval War College in Newport and made an announcement. Allen Dulles will retire in November as head of THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, and he'll be succeeded by John McCone, former Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. McCone, the man, and the task he faces are outlined by CBS News Washington correspondent Robert Pierpoint."

ROBERT PIERPOINT: "When John Alex McCone was a young engineer out in California, he had some trouble buying a life insurance policy. The trouble was that he spent so much time climbing around on steel girders high in the air, personally supervising his jobs, that the insurance companies thought he was a peer risk. But obviously President Kennedy believes the same qualities that made a young construction engineer a poor life insurance risk, also make him an excellent administrator on the New Frontier."

"Talk to any of his colleagues about John McCone, and you hear the same words: dynamic, tough, thorough--they are the qualities that took McCone within a few years after graduation from the University of California to the top of that state's steel construction industry. But McCone is no mere hot-talking straw boss. A long time Republican, he knows his way around Washington. He has worked for both the Truman and Eisenhower administrations in high ranking jobs, most recently as the chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. Over at the AEC today there was considerable talk about why McCone had been picked to replace Allen Dulles at Central Intelligence. But general agreement, that if President Kennedy wanted a driving man for a demanding job, McCone is the man."

"Under Allen Dulles, the CIA has had its ups and downs. It did fairly well in some of its less publicized activities, like the U-2 flights which gave American Intelligence invaluable information until the shooting down of Francis Gary Powers put an end to that secret weapon. CIA also did well in helping clean the communists out of the Philippines, under Magway, and in putting Ngo Dinh Diem into power in South Vietnam. But in recent adventures, for example Laos and Cuba, CIA has generated some painful public criticism. Some critics feel it may be time for an overhaul at CIA, and if given the go-ahead his associates say John McCone certainly can do the job."

"As one former colleague told CBS News today, McCone is not a philosopher, but if they tell him to clean out the deadwood and get things going at CIA, the deadwood will fly right out through the concrete walls and steel doors. This is CBS News, Washington."